

John S. Pyatt House
630 Highmarket Street at Screven
Georgetown
Georgetown County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-311

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

JOHN S. PYATT HOUSE

Address: 630 Highmarket Street at Screven, Georgetown,
Georgetown County, South Carolina.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Mrs. Francis S. Collins, Jr., 630 Highmarket Street,
Georgetown, South Carolina.

Present Use: Residential.

Brief Statement
of Significance: A planter's town house of the post-Revolutionary
era with attractive architectural character.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and Subsequent Owners: John S. Pyatt of Richmond Plantation. The Pyatt family occupied it until the 1860's; later occupied by the Johnstone, Sydney Fraser, and Bouie families. Purchased by Captain James Porter; now owned by Mrs. Collins.
- B. Date of Erection: Late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.
- C. Notes on Known Alterations and Additions: Restored in the twentieth century by Captain James Porter.
- D. Sources of Information (Secondary and Published Sources):
- Bolick, Julian S. Georgetown Houselore. Clinton, S. C.: Jacobs Press, 1944.
- Georgetown Chamber of Commerce. Historic Trail of Old Homes and Buildings of Georgetown, S. C. Georgetown, S. C.: Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, n.d.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
August 1963

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
1. Architectural interest: Large, handsome, well-preserved planter's town house.
 2. Condition of fabric: Excellent; recently restored.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: Two stories on elevated basement.
2. Number of bays: The main block has a five-bay front and two-bay sides.
3. Over-all dimensions: The main block is approximately 20' x 40'.
4. Layout: Rectangular main block with one-story portion across rear and projecting rear one-story wing raised on piers.
5. Foundations: Brick foundations are laid in both common and English bond. The porch is supported on a pink Bermuda coral arch arcade; the arcade is now filled in with more recent brick in an openwork pattern.
6. Wall construction: Clapboards with molded lower edge, painted white, 7 1/2" to weather.
7. Structural system: Traditional wooden post and beam.
8. Porch: There is a large elevated porch with board flooring and square columns (simple scrollwork at top) across the front and right side of house. It has a simple, turned baluster railing. Large, double, brick stairs, apparently a modern rebuilding of an early stair system (as old and new bricks both show) with concrete risers and treads, lead to porch. The two runs are parallel to house and join at a projecting stoop at porch level.
9. Chimneys: Two tall, large, square, brick chimneys at rear of house, with arched, brick miters.
10. Openings:
 - a. Doors: Front door is a wide, nine-paneled door with simple molded trim and a rectangular transom with metal arch and swag pane dividers.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung wooden sash and simple molded frames; windows are flush with wall; nine-over-nine lights in front portion, nine-over-six lights in rear portion, six-over-six lights in rear wing.
11. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Hip roof with flare at eaves; one-story portion across rear has shed roof that may have originally been hipped and later filled in to make shed roof; asphalt shingles.

- b. Cornice: Main block has modillion cornice; one-story portion across rear, a simple cornice; and projecting rear wing has eaves only.
- c. Dormers: Three hipped-roofed dormers across the front; single hipped-roofed dormers on each side and rear. All have simple window frames, double-hung wooden sash, six-over-six lights, and diagonal boarding on sides.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: Basement--brick walls parallel to center hall. First floor--central hall with large, main living room to left, dining room to right; stairway in hall; to rear there are smaller rooms, across rear, plus a recent kitchen wing behind. Second floor--two large rooms on each side of central hallway; front of central hall has been partitioned off to make bathroom. Attic--two bedrooms and bath.
- 2. Flooring: Butt sided, pine board flooring, approximately 4" to 6" in width, stained.
- 3. Wall finish: Plaster with matched horizontal board wainscoting; plaster ceilings.
- 4. Doors: Raised-paneled, six-paneled doors with double architraves.
- 5. Decorative features and trim: Living-room cornice has molded modillions and fret. There are fine crystal chandeliers in the living room, dining room, and front hall.
- 6. Stairway: Open newel, open string stairway; turned newel post, stained brown; square balusters, set diagonally; vertical matched board sides at first floor.
- 7. Hardware: Some HL hinges, but mostly modern.
- 8. Fireplaces: The living-room fireplaces have reeded pilasters and denticulated mantel; the dining-room fireplace is somewhat simpler with no pilasters or reeding; and the bedroom has simple fireplace with pilasters.
- 9. Heating: Modern central heating and air conditioning with concealed ductwork.

D. Site:

- 1. Orientation: Corner of two, quiet residential streets, facing toward the bay a few blocks away. Beautifully landscaped lot with large mature shrubs and flowers.

2. Walks, driveways: Concrete sidewalks; brick paths;
brick driveway in rear of house.

Prepared by James C. Massey, Architect
National Park Service
February 1963